

# Obituaries



## RICHARD R MILES OAM (OKG39) 1922 – 2019

Not long after leaving School, Richard Miles joined the AIF, where he served in several Anti-Tank Regiments. Throughout his Army Service, he was variously stationed in Darwin, North Queensland and Borneo. While Richard was frustrated by war time politics, he was also grateful for the richness of that life experience.

After demobilisation, Richard qualified as a Chartered Accountant. His accountancy career spanned more than 29 years, the majority of which were as a partner of the practice he founded in 1952. Following retirement from this firm, Richard enjoyed a second career as a board director, with a focus on the minerals sector. Still being anti “retirement”, he maintained an active involvement in the exploration sector throughout his 70s, but also enjoyed international travel and the time he spent at his Southern Highlands property with his wife, Sue.

Richard served as Treasurer and President of the Over 70s Club, and as a committee member of the Senior Knoxonians, as it became known. He was instrumental in this capacity and indeed was the driving force behind an initiative to collate profiles of some of the earliest Old Boys, to contribute to the School archive to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the School’s Foundation. He, along with Charles Wannan (OKG38), edited the nearly 100 odd profiles that were supplied.

Richard also wrote the history of the Over 70s Club. He was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the OKGA in March 2019 in recognition of his dedicated service to the Association and the School.

Richard was step-father to Geoff Lenehan (OKG61) and Roger Lenehan (OKG63), and father to Peter Miles (OKG79).

## PETER MILES (OKG79)

Dad used to tell me he never intended the outcomes of his life. He said he was blessed and fortunate. This may be partly true, but on the other hand, Dad had a single mindedness, discipline and a spirited determination that, frankly, was impressive.

The accountancy world Dad worked in was not for the faint-hearted. Very serious people were handling big things and other people’s money. But Dad could handle pressure, and he worked so hard. Two things also made him indispensable at work: his moral compass, and his belief in the importance of relationships.

The latter can be demonstrated with Equinox, a small [copper] exploration company Dad backed. He did so not to find wealth, but because of his relationship with the founders. He believed in them and for this reason persuaded many other people to invest along with him. It turned out better than anyone had anticipated. People could have lost everything.

Dad felt enormous responsibility and isolation from making decisions like these. He was always generous, but he realised he wanted to give back and establish something meaningful that would make a difference and outlive him and my mum.

When he retired, he had also really felt a loss of purpose. He became involved in the Old Boys, where relationships were formed, and he rediscovered the spirit that nurtured him. In many respects, Knox saved Dad, certainly from golf (for which he showed no talent).

Dad established the Miles Foundation, with mum’s support. Its primary purpose was to provide scholarships for existing students at Knox whose circumstances had changed, allowing them to continue their education. It has been helping boys for more than 20 years and will hopefully be in existence long after I’m gone. It’s a simple premise, but it makes such a difference to children’s lives, not just at Knox, but also Launceston Grammar (where Dad’s grandfather was a Headmaster).

In his final years, Dad was cared for 24/7 at home. All the carers brought grace and stories to both my parents, enlarging their world to the end and defying Keats, who once wrote, “there is no country for old men.” In spite of all he achieved in his long life, Dad didn’t enjoy the peace you would expect. We can however find solace to think of his life thus: “I must be taken as I have been made. The success is not mine, the failure is not mine, but the two together make me.”

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– GREAT EXPECTATIONS  
CHARLES DICKENS